Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1765 - June 10 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1765 with a release date of Friday, June 10, 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. RADAR could come to 60 meters and displace ham radio, South Africa cancels the licenses of those who forgot to pay the annual fee; Amateur radio is well represented at the 2011 Hurricane Conference in Texas and meet some of the ham radio heroes of the Joplin tornado. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1765 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: THE HERO HAMS OF THE JOPLIN TORNADO

Some high drama has emerged in the aftermath of the tornado that ripped through Joplin, Missouri, on Sunday night May 22nd. It's a story of true ham radio heroism as supplied to us by Patti Flowers-Palmer, KD0AEL, and Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details:

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Patti Flowers-Palmer, KD0AEL, tells Amateur Radio Newsline that it was on Sunday evening, May 22nd while a young amateur was finishing with post Skywarn Net Control duties that a voice was heard calling for help over the 146.91, W0EBE, repeater. Caleb Burns, KD0BWT, responded to that call. It was coming from the Freeman Hospital in Joplin, Missouri. The news it carried was that a devastating F5 tornado had destroyed much of the community as well as its regional medical facility.

In that exchange, crucial medical supplies were ordered and medical teams were called to duty. Initially, the call was made by an Information Technology person at that location. He was relieved by Thomas Ellicott, N0EKP, who deployed to assist his own stricken community.

As that transmission was taking place, Steve Palmer KA0SPM, and his wife Patti KD0AEL, Andrew Brashers KD0HUN and Jonathan Rinty KD0OSF, all who had been deployed as Skywarn spotters, responded by driving to Cox South Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. Meantime, Tom Hargis WX0SML and Jamas Justice, KD0GUU, both of whom had been deployed with Skywarn, drove to St. John's Regional Medical Center also located in Springfield. Both of these hospitals are regional Medical Centers for Southwest Missouri.

Upon arriving and finding that the radio rooms near the Incident Command Centers were void of any amateur equipment, operators at both locations began relaying information from doctors and nurses from using their own mobile radio gear. This, to begin the crucial process of

moving injured from the overwhelmed Freeman Hospital to several Springfield trauma centers.

With immediate needs met, the hospitals worked with the amateurs to provide locations for the operators to set up mobile radios as base stations so that communications could continue. One was located in an incident command at St. John's and the other in the ambulance bay of Cox South. As this was occurring, KD0BWT grabbed a handie-talkie and headed for Ozarks Community hospital where he established mobile command. A short time later, Pat Conway WA6JGM and Clifton Smith KC0SQU responded by taking a mobile unit to Ozarks and setting up a more permanent station at that location.

The amazing band opening that had allowed the initial communications began to fade and KA0SPM deployed to the National Weather Service in Springfield where he relayed messages via the 145.21 repeater. That machine had survived the tornado that ravaged other parts of the Joplin area.

According to KD0AEL, before the night was over, there was a tremendous outpouring of offers from amateurs over the entire area who offered any assistance they could provide to keep communications flowing. During the week that followed, a number of hams continued to call to offer assistance and they were directed to the coordinators of the CERT search and rescue efforts.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reporting from Reno, Nevada.

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As a side note, Patti says that the operator that received the first transmission was on his honeymoon but had been acting as net control for the Greene County Skywarn. Talk about total dedication to duty. (KD0AEL)

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RESTRUCTURING: RADAR COULD COME TO 60 METERS

The 60 meter ham radio allocation could come under threat from low frequency RADAR. The ARRL and Southgate news both report that the United States has submitted a National Telecommunications and Informational Agency developed plan that could see 5.250 to 5.450 MHz being co-allocated to High Frequency Radar systems.

The NTIA proposals would see Radiolocation getting primary allocations that would include at 5.250 to 5.450 MHz as well as 14.350 to 14.990 MHz along with a number of others across the entire High Frequency spectrum. This would not only mean sharing or giving up 5 MHz, but it would also place wideband noise generating signals directly adjacent to the 20 meter band as well.

While there is no international allocation to the Amateur Service in the 5.250 to 5.450 MHz band, the United States and a growing number of other nations world-wide have authorized at least limited amateur

operations on a non-interference basis to this spectrum

The full story is on-line at the ARRL website. You can get directly to it by using the shortcut of tinyurl.com/LFRADAR. (Southgate, ARRL, others)

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RADIO LAW: SOUTH AFRICA'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATOR CANCELS 34,000 LICENSES FOR NON PAYMENT

When is a ham not a ham? In South Africa it appears to be when he forgets to pay his yearly licensing fee. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains:

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South African hams who failed to pay their annual license fee, may now find that they are license free. This, after South Africa's telecommunications regulator the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, better known as ICASA, has cancelled over 34,000 radio licenses that have remained unpaid for the past 365 days. This includes all amateur radio licenses that are in arrears for the past year.

According to the South African Radio League, ICASA's finance department did not consult with the regulatory agency's licensing department before taking this action. Rather, it simply cancelled all licenses unpaid for the past 365 days.

South African hams that had their license cancelled are being advised by the South African Radio League to call the Independent Communications Authority to have it reinstated. Those that have already paid only need to provide proof of payment. Those who have not paid up can do so by following the information and account number on their last valid license document.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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It should also be noted that as a courtesy ICASA normally sends out reminders that regulatory fees are due. However, the ultimate responsibility remains with the licensee to ensure that the license fee is paid up at all times. (SARL)

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RADIO LAW: BILL TO AUTHORIZE ENGINEERS ON COMMISSIONERS STAFF INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

Meantime back in the United States, Representative Cliff Stearns from Florida has introduced House Bill 2102 This is a companion measure to Senate Bill 611, presented earlier this year by Senator Olympia Snowe of Maine. Both bills would authorize each FCC commissioner to appoint

a fourth staff assistant who is an engineer or computer scientist.

Last March, the Society of Broadcast Engineers national leadership says that it met with Stearns' Washington staff and asked that he consider sponsoring the legislation. In a press statement, the SBE says that with bills now introduced in both Houses of Congress, it will be working to gain co-sponsors for each measure and will continue to push to see this legislation eventually approved by Congress and signed into law.

The president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers is Vinny Lopez. He is encouraging SBE members to write senators and representatives to ask them to support S.611 and H.R.2102. Radio amateurs who want to see more technical expertise returned to the FCC might want to read these two measures and comment on them as well. (RW)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W4KEV repeater serving Knoxville, Tennessee.

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES LOS ANGELES MAN $24,000 FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

The FCC has come down hard on a Los Angeles area man that the agency alleges to have tried to run a shopping center off of its assigned land mobile channels. We have more in this report:

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Back in March of 2009 the FCC was asked by The Oaks shopping Center in the Los Angeles suburb of Thousand Oaks to investigate what appeared to be interference on the radio frequencies used by the mall's security officers. By March 5th, agents from the FCC's Long Beach office had T-hunted the source of the interference to an unlicensed and unauthorized repeater transmitter in a secured radio communications facility on Oat Mountain. Oat Mountain is a popular radio site at about 3000' above surrounding terrain located in the Santa Susana Mountains North-West of Los Angeles. At that time the agent observed pulsating signals on 461.375 MHz and 466.375 MHz emanating from the repeater transmitter and also observed a beam antenna pointed in the direction of the shopping center.

On March 6, 2009, in an effort to locate the point of origin of the transmission from the, the agent again monitored 461.375 MHz and 466.375 MHz in the vicinity of The Oaks and observed pulsating signals that interfered with the normal transmissions on those frequencies.

Later that day, in consultation with personnel from The Oaks and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles agent used direction-finding to locate the source of the transmissions. This, while personnel from The Oaks spoke to the as yet unidentified subject on 464.7125 MHz and 462.8375 MHz.

During the time The Oaks personnel engaged in radio communications with the subject, he acknowledged he was intentionally interfering with the shopping centers ability to communicate in order to render its repeater unusable and to force The Oaks off of its licensed channels. Specifically, the subject told The Oaks personnel that they had "plenty of warning."

All this time the FCC had been busy T-hunting the signal and at approximately 7:30 p.m. the Los Angeles agent located the transmitter originating the voice transmissions to a vehicle parked at a National Park Service parking structure across the street from the shopping center. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department then secured the area and identified the subject as Kevin Bondy.

The Los Angeles agent identified himself to Bondy and explained that a refusal to allow an inspection could result in a fine. Then the agent asked Bondy if he could perform an inspection of all radios in his vehicle. Initially Bondy refused to allow an inspection, then a few minutes later, agreed to allow an inspection, then refused again after the Los Angeles agent began. Bondy's refusal was witnessed by Ventura County Sheriff's Department deputies.

About three months later on May 14, 2009, the Los Angeles Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Bondy in the amount of $24,000. After being granted an extension by the Los Angeles Office, Bondy filed a response on August 21, 2009, arguing that he did not commit the violations, that he did not refuse to allow the inspection, and that he lacks the ability to pay the proposed forfeiture amount.

Now, in its In its June 6th notice, the FCC said that in deciding to affirm the $24,000 fine, the agency notes that it is responsible for making and enforcing regulations to prevent interference and to maintain control over the use of the radio spectrum in a manner that promotes the public interest and convenience. It says that Bondy's actions cut at the heart of the Commission's responsibilities to protect the nation's airwaves and regulate use of the spectrum. As such, whether he can afford to pay it or not he can afford it, the $24,000 fine remains adding that the ability to pay a forfeiture is just one of the criteria the agency must consider when determining the appropriate forfeiture penalty for violations of the Communications Act and the FCC's own Rules. It then gave Bondy until July 6th to pay the amount in full.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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Bondy was ordered to pay in full the $25,000 fine within 30 days of the release date of its notice. If he fails to do so, the FCC says it can refer the case to the Department of Justice for collection. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: ANOTHER UNLICENSED BROADCASTER FEELS THE FCC $20000 NAL STING

The proposed fines to unlicensed broadcasters just keep on coming. This with word that the FCC is pursuing a $20,000 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture that it has issued against Recardo Millwood for his alleged operation of an unlicensed radio transmitter on 88.9 MHz in The Bronx, New York.

According to its May 12th release, back on five occasions in late 2010, agents from the Enforcement Bureau's New York Office responded to a complaint regarding an apparent unlicensed broadcast station operating in the New York City borough of Bronx. In each instance they determined that the source of the transmissions was a radio station operating with a transmitter located in the building on White Plains Road and an antenna located on the roof of an adjacent building. A person who identified himself as Recardo Millwood stated that he was the owner and operator of the radio station that identified itself as Sela Radio.

During station inspections the agents verbally warned Millwood about the penalties for operation of an unlicensed radio station. These verbal warnings were followed up by written correspondence to Millwood but the FCC says the illegal transmissions continued.

Now it has acted by issuing Millwood the $20,000 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture. This based on fact it had warned Millwood to cease transmissions on more than one occasion.

Millwood was given the customary 30 days to pay the proposed fine or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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RADIO LAW: FCC SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CALM ACT

The FCC is asking for public comment on the implementation of the Calm Act, which aims to regulate the volume on TV commercials to that of associated programming.

The Calm Act was enacted by Congress last December 15th. It requires that the FCC adopt regulations for television broadcasters, cable operators and other multi-channel programming distributors on or before this December 15th to limit volume excursions between programming and commercials.

The legislation stems from numerous long term viewer complaints about excessively loud television commercials. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making or NPRM issued May 27th, the FCC notes that commercial audio levels have been a leading source of criticism reported to the regulatory agency since its Consumer Call Center began reporting complaints in 2002. The NPRM addresses regulatory enactment, compliance, viewer complaint procedures, enforcement and other matters

concerning adoption of the Calm Act.

Comments to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be accepted for 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register and reply comments will be due no later than 45 days after the Federal Register publication. The new regulations will go into effect one year after they are adopted. (FCC, TV Technology)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO AT THE 2011 HURRICANE CONFERENCE

Amateur radio was well represented at the 2011 Hurricane Conference held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on Saturday June 4th. Members of the South East Unit headed by Emergency Coordinator, George Fletcher, AD5CQ, provided communications by shadowing key staff throughout the event. They also had a booth in the vendors section manned by Alfred Perez, N5VEV and Mike Urich, KA5CVH.

In addition to the one on one contact at the booth, ARRL literature on how to become a radio amateur along with information on Harris County ARES was available. A portable station was located at the booth for display and was also used as a net control point manned by Scott Reeve, KT5SR.

Contact information was collected from approximately 200 people who indicated that they were interested in learning more about ham radio. As a follow-up, each one will be contacted and directed to the closest area club that provides classes and testing sessions. This information will also be distributed to those clubs for follow-up.

Pictures of the event are on the Harris County ARES web-site. It's in cyberspace at the shortcut link of tinyurl.com/3h5caeh (KA5CVH)

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HAM RADIO POLITICS: AMSAT NA BOD NOMINATIONS DUE JUNE 15

The deadline for submission of nominations to serve on the AMSAT North America Board of Directors is Wednesday, June 15th. If you wish to serve, or you know someone you think should serve please nominate that person. Details are on line at www.amsat.org. (WA4SCA)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: GET WELL WISHES TO SOUTHGATE NEWS RICHARD BRUNTON G4TUT

A shout-out of get well wishes to our friend Richard Brunton, G4TUT, who operates the Southgate Amateur Radio Club news source website in the United Kingdom. For several days last week the Southgate clubs news log was not being updated. On Saturday, June 4th, Richard posted that he had been taken to the hospital on Tuesday, May 31st and was not released until last Saturday afternoon.

Since its inception, what's become known as the Southgate News has

become the ham rtadio equivalent of a wire service to the world of amateur radio. As such is a truly valuable resource to all those who report the news of the hobby. Richard is its heart and soul and we wish him all the best in recovering from whatever ailment he had. (ARNewsline(tm), Southgate)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: K7BV SAYS HE'S NOW CANCER FREE

And some good news that many have been waiting to hear. Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV, who is the Executive Vice President of Amateur Radio Sales for Vertex-Standard says that he is now cancer free.

One of the most respected people in any aspect of the hobby, in August 2010, Dennis was diagnosed with throat cancer that had spread to lymph nodes on the right side of his neck. Since then, he has been going through very aggressive therapy to rid himself of the disease. And as his day to day health would allow, he chronicled his almost year long experience in an on-line blog simply titled Dennis K7BV Cancer: Uncensored. And in his May 26th entry he announced that he was officially cancer free and that: "life is good."

The only word that can be used to describe Dennis story of his battle to overcome the disease is inspirational. His blog is well worth reading by anyone, but especially by those who have been diagnosed with any life altering illness. If that's you, or if you know someone like that, send them to http://k7bvcancer.blogspot.com.

In the meantime, we know that you join us in saying, K7BV -welcome back. You were truly missed. (K7BV Blog)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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PUBLIC RELATIONS: A GREAT LESSON IN HAM RADIO PUBLIC RELATIONS

One of the best ever public relations spots ever done was aired recently on KCTV channel 5 in Kansas City. It featured only a reporter, two hams and an H-T, but is an excellent example of how an interview should take place.

The interviewees were Hamclass.org instructors, Brian Short, KC0BS and Matt May, KC4WCG. The HT was a Yaesu VX-7R, but it was the comments made by Short and May that made this such an outstanding bit of morning television:

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KC0BS: ""Actually, there are a lot of ways that people can get involved in a response, but all of them require some expertise. You need to bring something to the party, so as to speak. There's are great opportunities through the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and another great example of that is amateur radio."

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If you are a ham involved in publicizing the hobby, or just want to see how to do an interview correctly, then this is must watch television. Its now up on YouTube.com. You can reach it by taking the shortcut link of tinyurl.com/42ntagq (Various sources. Audio courtesy of YouTube)

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STRANGE BUT TRUE: BIRDS ATTACK TV STATION PERSONNEL

And heres one from the strange but true file. Looking a bit like the Alfred Hitchcock movie thriller "The Birds," staffers at Atlanta's WXIA television have been dodging an aggressive flock of Brown Thrashers near its studios. The birds appear to have taken up residence atop a driveway light pole and regularly swoop down to attack passers by. Video of these airborne assaults on the WXIA staff can be seen on-line at tinyurl.com/3qmxk4b (Broadcasting)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: LASER AND FIBER OPTICS SET NET DATA SPEED RECORD

Researchers have set a new record for the rate of data transfer using a single laser. The speed reached is 26 terabits per second.

The trick was to use what is known as a "fast Fourier transform" to unpick more than 300 separate colors of light in a laser beam. Each is then encoded with its own string of information.

The technique is described in the journal Nature Photonics. The report says that at those speeds, the entire Library of Congress collections could be sent down an optical fiber in about 10 seconds. (Science OnLine)

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ON THE AIR: UK MANOR HOUSE OXBURGH HALL

On the air, news that the United Kingdom's Bittern DX Group will be activating Oxburgh Hall in Norfolk as GB2OH from June 16th to the 19th. Oxburgh Hall is a historic site that was built in 1482 by the Bedingfield family, whose descendants still live in parts of the estate but the property now maintained by the National Trust.

Sir Edmund Bedingfeld was granted a license to construct the manor by

Edward IV. Bedingfeld built this medieval, moated home as a glorious status symbol, romantically adorned in the nature of a castle. More information regarding Oxburgh Hall can be found at the Bittern DX website or www.cashota.co.uk (RSGB)

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DX

In DX, word that South Korean operators HL5FUA and 6K2GCW will be operational as 3D2CJ from Rotuma sometime and not between June 17th and the 24th as first announced. ctivity will be on 80 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL via HL5FUA, direct or by the Bureau.

Another postponed operation is that of K9EL who was expected to be active from French Saint Martin this past week. At the last moment he informed the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that it been postponed due to medical reasons. Specifically, John told the newsletter that he had developed chest pains and underwent surgery to install three stents in arteries around his heart. He added that he is unable to travel to French Saint Martin at this time, but that he will advise if he is able to re-schedule the trip for later in the month. In the meantime, we wish John a very speedy recovery.

VK4FW and VK4AN are expected to be active from Fiji as 3D2T and 3D2A between October 24th and November 9th. No details of their bands or modes have yet been provided. It was mentioned that they will participate in the CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest on October 29th and 30th. QSL 3D2T via VK4FW and 3D2A via VK4AN.

JI3QBQ will be operational portable AH0 from Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands from between June 11th and the 14th. Activity will be on the High Frequency bands. QSL via JI3QBQ.

Lastly, keep an ear open for special event station TM6JUN to be active until June 15th. This operation is to commemorate "D-Day" which was June 6, 1944 on the beachhead at Normandy, France. Operations are on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via F5SAZ, either direct or via the bureau.

(Above from various DX News Sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS - FUTURE DANCE

And finally this week, something a bit different in the meaning of the word "communications." Its out of the performing arts meets modern technology file and involves a performer and a choreographer of Dance Theater living in New York. Her name is Ashley A. Friend and she recently teamed up with another choreographer named Michael Freeman to produce a rather amazing video and live performance titled Future Dance. What makes Future Dance different is through the use of modern digital technology Ashley appears to be completely disassembling and reassembling herself as she performs:

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Ashley Friend: "I was doing some modern ballet movements and then the video was sort of spliced into sections to make it (the sections) go slower or faster all the way from the feet to the tip of the finger so that the feet would move and the rest of it would be very disjointed. The rest of the body would stay (in position) and then the knees would move and then the hand would move and it would start moving in more and more of a circular pattern."

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No, Ashley does not really go to pieces. Rather it's all the proverbial smoke and mirrors in the form of some amazing and very modern digital techniques in the hands of a video production artist known as Peyton:

Future Dance was performed on Saturday, April 30th at the Gaga Arts Center in Garnerville, New York. You can it on-line at tinyurl.com/futuredance. More of Ashley's work can by seen on YouTube by searching for Ashley A. Friend.   Her own website is www.dancecore.org.

Also, you can hear our complete interview with Ashley on this weeks RAIN Report. Its on-line right now at www.therainreport.com.

As we said at the beginning of this story, combining the performing arts with modern digital technology is yet another way for mankind to communicate. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

And a reminder that the nominating period for the year 2011 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Created by Newsline back in 1986, this award is offered to recognize one young United States or Canadian radio amateur age 18 or younger for his or her contributions to society through Amateur Radio.

As in years past, the 2011 recipient will receive an expense paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville Alabama courtesy of Vertex-Standard Corporation which produces Yaesu brand amateur radio gear. Vertex-Standard will also present this years winner with a special ham radio related gift. CQ Magazine will again treat the recipient to a week at Spacecamp-Huntsville. We at Amateur Radio

Newsline will present the winner with a plaque honoring his or her achievements.

All nominations and materials required by the official rules must be received by ARNewsline before June 30, 2011. A downloadable nominating form is at our website at www.arnewsline.org. A nominating form can also be obtained by sending a request along with a self addressed stamped envelope to the Young Ham of the Year Award in care of Amateur Radio Newsline, Inc. 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California 91350.

Again, the cutoff date for these years Young Ham of the Year Award nominations is June 30th. We ask you to do your part by nominating a young ham who has done something special related to ham radio. The nomination form is at www.arnewsline.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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